

**WHAT DOES EASTER MEAN TO YOU?
How would you answer this question?
Perhaps through music, arts, crafts, poetry, video
or some other way?**

We are planning to fill the church with a colourful display of your responses to this question over Easter weekend Saturday 7 - Tuesday 10 April 2012

The aim of the event is to give you and people from the local community the opportunity to reflect on the meaning of Easter. We are inviting your creative ideas on the religious significance of Easter - the solemnity of Holy Week or the joy of Easter Day. Or maybe you prefer to focus on the excitement of Easter eggs and the signs of new life that come each Spring. This may be through painting or drawing; needlework (collage, embroidery, cross stitch, banner making); photography; graphics; video; poetry; woodwork; floral displays and Easter gardens - in fact in any way you wish! We are also hoping that music will fill the church. If you would like to be part of all this, please let us know by filling in one of the forms available in church, in the coffee bar or via the church office, or from any one of us and returning it by **Sunday 26 February**.

Even if you don't feel at all creative (are you really sure?!), please make a note in your diary to come along and share the experience some time over the Easter weekend.

Diane Bown, Helen Clark, Anne Lyburn, Hilary Sutherland, Anne Wragg

Minister, Rev Colin Barrett Tel: 808 9744
Superintendent Rev Stuart Bell Tel: 0115 9282207
University Chaplain Rev Anna Ratcliff Tel: 0784 6817424
Church Administrator, Karen Jowett Tel: 0115 9431164
Chilwell Road Methodist Church website:
www.chilwellroadmethodist.org.uk

Email address: admin@chilwellroadmethodist.org.uk

Contributions Please: The copy deadline for the next newsletter is
Sunday 12th February

Articles, comments and news can be put in the **B** pigeon hole at church, e-mailed to hj.brough@tinyworld.co.uk or via the office.

Thanks!

Monthly and including Junior Church Newsletter

**Chilwell Road
Methodist Church**
Newsletter
**COUNTING DOWN
TO CHRISTMAS**

FREE

Please take one



Counting the days, those few remaining days in which we feel we have to do so much that is necessary to enjoy Christmas – or is it all necessary? When all is said and done Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Christ – or is it? Those questions were posed in another excellent seasonal play by the Junior Church, designed to make us think again as Christians just what is necessary to celebrate this spectacular event - the gift of Jesus or the gifts we give and receive in such a stressful manner. It certainly made me think again.

This was an enjoyable production, with some polished performances and a few hiccups – of the enjoyable kind! The “studio”, Paul and Barry and the Greek restaurant scenes made us laugh and I would think that most of the ladies present could identify with poor overworked, stressed-out mum! The dancing of the “gospel choir” and all the singing enchanted and entertained us. All in all another great treat as we have come to expect of our Junior Church and their leaders. We are indeed fortunate at Chilwell Road to have such a good all-round church.

This year, however, I also wanted to get the bigger picture, so Heather kindly agreed that I could attend some rehearsals. I discovered just what a huge effort goes into producing a performance to entertain and educate us. Leaders, helpers and the young people give up a lot of their time at a busy part of the year. From the rehearsals that I went to I was amazed to see the final result – as Heather remarked to me “it will be alright on the night!”

Finally, at one rehearsal I was surprised to learn from one of the seniors that they did not know that there had been “reviews” of the plays in the newsletter in the past – please parents and leaders, let the youngsters see this and know that we love and appreciate their plays and the hard work they put in.

Well done everybody!

Joyce Brown

Feb 2012

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Message

P4: Pastoral

P6: Resources
Team

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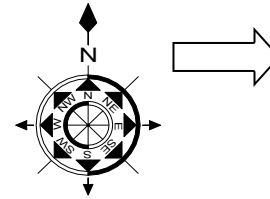
P15: Giving prayer
a direction



Dear Friends

As many of you will know, my wife has gone to visit her sister in New Zealand and I am now "home alone!" As part of the preparation for the trip Muriel went to Thomas Cook to ask about currency. Should she take cash? or travellers' cheques? or what is the best way these days? No problem! Before you could say Jack Robinson, she was equipped with a brightly decorated plastic card loaded with money. All she has to do is put it in any cash dispenser anywhere in New Zealand, key in the secret PIN number and in the twinkling of an eye she will be ready to head for the shoe shops!

I couldn't help but reflect on the "olden days" when things were a bit more ponderous. A family holiday with my grand-parents in St. Leonards-on-sea was always preceded by a visit to the hallowed halls of Barclay's Bank to make "the Arrangement." This meant an interview over the high and highly polished counter of the local branch with a bespectacled and very earnest clerk. My father would have to say exactly how much money he wanted to be available for a family of 7 for the 2-week holiday. He had to specify precisely which branch of Barclay's he would like to withdraw money from and the dates of our stay. All this was carefully noted on a brown index card and the clerk would solemnly declare that since my father had given sufficient notice he was sure the Arrangement would be OK. It was always with some excitement – but tinged with a little tremor of anxiety – that we all piled into St. Leonard's Barclay's on the first day of the holiday to see if the Arrangement had actually worked. If it had not, then the ice-cream would be severely rationed and there would be no visit to the Show on the Pier at Hastings! In fairness to Barclay's they never let us down. My father would take out his fountain pen, write out a cheque and, after another equally bespectacled and earnest clerk had carefully checked all the details and made the appropriate entries on the brown index card, the holiday spending money would be counted out. How different the good old Arrangement was to the immediate "any amount, anywhere, anytime" service we expect and take for granted today. However, you may be surprised to hear that, behind the slick speed and ease of it all, the Arrangement is alive and well. I found this out because my daughter Carolyn has also gone on holiday – to Australia. Before she went she appointed me as her Financial Manager. That may sound important but it basically means that it's my job to make sure I notice she has run out of money before her Bank Manager does –

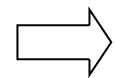


Giving prayer a direction

**Prayer themes this month are from
Prayer Times**

Please Pray for:

- The continuing witness and commitment of our church members and friends.
- Our new Church Family Worker
- The vision and mission of all churches in helping to develop the Hope Centre.
- The work of the development and co-ordinating groups planning the future of the Methodist Churches in Beeston and Chilwell.
- The local people and businesses affected by the tram developments.



and directing them towards God

**Prayer Times
Saturday 11th February
9.15am to 10am in the Epworth Room.
Everyone Welcome**

Congratulations to:

Margaret Cooper who celebrated her 97th birthday on October 30th



Jenny Taylor who celebrated her 18th birthday on 2nd November

Bert Taylor who celebrated his 90th birthday in January

Welcome to Sarah Butcher who is the new Church Family Worker. She takes up her post on 1st February.

We all wish her well in her new job and look forward to meeting her.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you to all who contributed in any way to the Shoebox Appeal. We sent fifty-four boxes together with £166.00 towards the transportation costs.

Altogether the Nottingham campaign collected 12595 shoeboxes, of these over 8700 boxes (a full lorry) went to Swaziland and the remainder to the Crimea.

Jennifer Bostock

Mum and Dad have a free-standing upright freezer to dispose of. It is in full working order. It is of standard-size width and depth, and is about 5 feet tall. If anyone has a use for it please contact me if they wish to collect it.

David Hall

and to do something about it. That means I need access to her bank account. It sounds easy – until you try it. The high and highly polished counter and the bespectacled clerk and the brown index card have been replaced with a maze of modern electronically controlled security devices which would make even Thomas Crown think hard. I need to know not only the passwords but also all sorts of information like family maiden names, schools, favourite pets and meals and the names of long forgotten boy-friends. (It doesn't help that Carolyn is not God's gift to spelling, so, even if I get the information right, I need to work out how she spelt it!) If you get past that, there are pictures to choose from and then one of those words to decipher which looks as if it is being reflected in a rain puddle. And finally just when you think you've cracked it, the observation pops up that I am not using the usual (i.e. Carolyn's) computer – and the security level goes up to amber. Oh, yes the Arrangement is alive and kicking - and the tremor of excitement and anxiety it induces is unmistakeably still there.

All of this came to mind when I was thinking about another journey, the one we are making together – the Christian journey. We are all at different stages of our journey. Some of us are a good way on while others are still preparing to set out but, wherever we are, we are most concerned that people will *want* to carry on travelling with us. So we must make it all consumer-friendly - slick, professional, well-resourced, colourful, happy, rewarding, achievable, accessible and so on. Church can be anywhere, anytime, anyplace and does not have to be weighed down by ponderous and old-fashioned formalities. Well! Why not? I'm all for it. However I am glad too that we are not cutting corners and advocating superficiality, that it is not all to do with fluff and bubbles. The good old Arrangement is still in place. A sure foundation, safety, security, assurance and confidence in the promises of God. Today in a modern and sometimes bewildering age where everything seems to be different, we find that actually everything is as it always was. Thank God for his everlasting Arrangement: I am your God and you will be my people.

Happy travelling, God bless

Colin



1. The Pastoral Committee continues to meet with two formal committee meetings per calendar year. We have 49 Pastoral Visitors, plus our Minister Rev. Colin Barrett, Church Bereavement Worker Dorothy Bush and supernumerary minister Rev. Eileen Wragg, who all offer their time for pastoral caring, looking after 38 Classes. We recently asked Church Council to approve the following new Pastoral Visitors: Mary Austin, who has returned to Chilwell Road; Elaine Bryan; Kathryn Truman; Diane and Malcolm Wilson, who will be working alongside Margaret Cooper with her class members. In addition we are excited that Muriel Barrett has agreed to work alongside Heather Brough and Paul Hunt as a youth pastoral leader, and the three of them will now head up one Class of young people from school Year 6 onwards.

2. As of 1st November 2011 our Church Membership stood at 207 (up from 203 at 01/11 2010). We celebrate receiving the following into membership of our church over the past few months: Caroline Balfour, Rob Guyler, Judith Leader, Anne Lyburn, Bob Peatman, Heather and Robert Pettifer, John Stafford, Evelyn Venning, Matthew Barton, Muriel Barrett and Val Sellars.

3. Our most recent training event was held in June on the subject of 'Safeguarding' (rather than the previously advertised 'Spirituality and Ageing') and was led by Jenny Weir who is on our church Safeguarding Team. The reason for this was that it was felt to be an important area which is increasingly becoming central to our role of caring within our Methodist churches. All Pastoral Visitors (and many other postholders within the church) are being asked to complete a Methodist Church Safeguarding training event and our June training acted as an introduction to the subject for some, a refresher for others. The Methodist Church round of training has now begun and the first 'batch' of us were trained in November, led by Connie Pullan and Rev. Melanie Stoodley. This training covers caring for and protecting the interests of all vulnerable groups within the church, which includes children, people with disabilities, in fact any people who are vulnerable to abusive situations and are dependent on others or in some way unable to look after their own interests. Through information-giving, discussion and the use of case scenarios, both sets of training have begun to increase our awareness of the kinds of situations in which dilemmas or problems



Sat Feb 4th 7.30pm Nottingham Bluecoat Singers – 'Love is in the Air'.

Sat Feb 25th 7.30 p.m. Loughborough Ladies Choir with guest soloist Maria Veretenina

Sat March 31st 7.30 p.m. Forro Porro (Village Ventures)

Sat April 21st 7.30 p.m. Rotary Concert

Sat June 16th 7.30 p.m. Wollaton Singers

Sat June 30th 7.30 p.m. Cantata

Sat July 14th 7.30 p.m. Nottingham Concert Band

Sat Sept 22nd 7.30 p.m. Bestwood Welfare Black Diamonds Brass Band

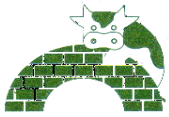
Sat Oct 20th 7.30 p.m. Concert arranged by Queenswood Methodist Home

Sat Dec 1st 7.30 p.m. Carlton Male Voice Choir

Sat Dec 15th 7.30 p.m. Chilwell Road Singers and Musicians

Loughborough Ladies Choir -was originally founded in the 1960s by members of Loughborough Baptist Church where it is still based. Two years ago the choir celebrated 25 years with John Bilton as its conductor. During this time he has developed a wider repertoire with the choir and made a number of special arrangements and compositions, some of which will be included in the concert. David Gabe, choirmaster and organist at Loughborough Baptist Church, became the choir's accompanist over 10 years ago, lending more male support! He will perform solos on the organ. MARIA VERETENINA is a dramatic coloratura soprano from Estonia who has come to live in Loughborough as her husband is now at Loughborough University. Last year she sang at Chilwell Road as a guest with Radcliffe-on-Trent Male Voice Choir. After leaving school in Tallinn she attended Georg Ots Music School later graduating to the Estonian Academy of Music. On completing her course she undertook several projects with children including The Nursery by Mussorgsky and sang solo parts in Sweden before entering the Rome Conservatoire for postgraduate vocal studies. Returning to the Estonian Academy she took her MA degree in vocal studies before coming to England. She has been a prizewinner at several international song competitions in the last six years. Amongst recent engagements she has sung as Principal with Finnish State Opera in 8 performances of Boris Godunov in Helsinki during October and November.

Colin Firbank



Stonebridge City Farm

Stonebridge City Farm is a small slice of the countryside in the heart of the City of Nottingham! Free to visit and open every day, there are animals both big and small, gardens and polytunnels where fruit, vegetables and herbs are grown, and honey is produced, a nature walk where you can see a number of wild birds and butterflies, and amenities such as the café shop and toilets.

The farm was set up in the late 1970s and has recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. Its ideals include providing a much-needed green space, sustainable buildings, distinctive local identity and people who care and respect the community. The site is accessible to all – families with young children, people with disabilities, and parties from schools and colleges. Visitors can just come for a while, perhaps to feed and pet some of the animals, or there are courses and special events for bee-keepers and people interested in horticulture.



Catherine Guyler with Stephen Gee and Marie Rogers at the Benevolent Service when the 2012 charity was introduced.

Church Charity 2012

The total raised by January 15th was £217.19

Coffee Bar	£33.69
Progressive Dinner	£123.50
Brigade Friendship Group	£60.00

could occur, and the thought processes and actions necessary in order to act in the best interests of all our members and users of our premises.

4. Gifts of food and flowers were once more distributed after our Harvest services to a list of those people felt to have had a tough year or who were elderly or housebound. Many thanks to those who coordinated and distributed the gifts this year. We are still looking for a new volunteer to coordinate the distribution of the Harvest gifts each autumn. If this is a ministry that you think you could offer once a year (or once to start with, to see how you get on!) then please do have a word with me to find out more about this small but important role.

5. Our annual Service of Remembering in November has come and gone again, offering something to those within our community who have suffered loss.

6. Following further thought and discussion, the Committee has now made the decision not automatically to allocate everyone on the Sunday Community Roll a Pastoral Visitor, but to write to all with an open invitation and ask for a response. Sally Apokis did sterling work encouraging and making contact with people who are on the fringes of the church, including a number of families and young people. We wish to express our gratitude for all her work and our sadness that she has moved on, but wish her all the best in her new role in Sheffield. There will be an unfortunate hiatus in the Family Worker role until someone else is appointed, but we hope it will not be too long before the post is filled. In the meantime it is the responsibility of *all* of us to continue to extend a hand of friendship to all who put a foot inside our doors, making them welcome and aware of what is available for them here at Chilwell Road. Please don't leave it to someone else, as that someone else may not get around to it. We are known to be a welcoming church, so let's all keep up the good work!

The members of the Pastoral Committee wish you every blessing .

Sally Ramsey, Pastoral Committee Secretary.

Note from the meeting held on November 9th 2011.

The following items might be of general interest from our last meeting. As usual, the full minutes of the meeting are available in the yellow folder in the coffee bar.

- We were informed that Ray Howard had agreed to take over as church treasurer. Most of the supporting roles had been filled. The change over would take place over the next month.
- The appointment of Ray as treasurer meant that he could no longer continue as senior property steward, so we are looking for someone else to take this on.
- The lead on the roof should be painted with Smartwater to help in the case of lead theft. It will be very expensive to do all the lead because scaffolding would need to be erected to get to some parts. We hope this means that it will also be difficult to steal. The insurance cover accepts that using Smartwater for reasonably accessible places was adequate. More accessible places will be covered.
- The water heater in the coffee bar has been replaced.
- 4 broken windows have been replaced in the Guild and Wesley rooms
- A recent Fire Safety visit by Notts Fire Authority took place in October. Most things were fine but an up-to-date risk assessment is to be done, the fire alarm system is inadequate and needs replacing, and we need periodic fire drills (we will warn you!).
- Preparatory work for the tram is expected to start in the new year. This will include clearing the house next door and preparing the ground for the new car park. Some of our car park will be used for a plant storage compound while this work is being done but we hope to minimise this and retain access to some of the car park.

Connie Pullan Secretary Resources Team



The final total raised for the REAP India charity was £11,744.44p, £5000 of which was sent out to India earlier in the year to the two projects we were supporting.

This money will go an immense way to ensuring that the residents of the Tananuku home for the elderly are fed, clothed and sheltered and the children at the Yanadhi day care centre may receive care and even some education. All of these are often immediate and desperate needs. Knowing the difference it will make we are extremely grateful to everyone who has supported the charity throughout the year whether by your prayers, events, support or giving. We would also like to give special thanks to Colin Firbank who puts so much work into the running of the charity particularly the concerts. It is not only thanks from us but thanks from the director of REAP India, bishop Sudheer Kumar and more importantly the many children and adults who will probably never know the name of Chilwell Road Methodist Church, but whose lives will be made better by your contributions.



Thank you



Rachael & Heather

Guidelines regarding the use of texting, email and social networking sites



These guidelines are suggested in order to ensure proper protection for children and young people at Chilwell Road, and to protect adults in our congregation from unwarranted accusation.

Email and texting

Anything we text or email to a young person under 18 should be copied to parents/guardians. Wherever possible, text or email to a group rather than an individual. When sending emails to a group, use the "blind copy" mode in order to avoid sharing addresses without permission. Only designated leaders should be sending out emails on behalf of a group. Parents should be informed who the designated people are for each group. Do not share photographs or videos via email or mobile phones. The golden rule is: ***if in doubt, don't do it.***

Social networking sites such as Facebook, Myspace, Twitter and MSN

It is inadvisable to allow young people under 18 to be your friend on an individual site, since this could be seen as developing a separate relationship with a young person outside church. It could also allow young people access to possibly unsuitable material. If you are invited by a young person under 18 to become your "friend", please contact their parents/guardians so that they and you can explain that declining an online friendship is not a rejection of the young person concerned. The golden rule is: ***if in doubt, don't do it.***

If you need any more information or clarification please contact Heather Brough

At the General Church Meeting on 25th April 2012 we will elect 2 church stewards to replace those who are retiring this year from our team of 8. Any church member may nominate any other church member as steward by writing to Colin at least 7 days before the meeting takes place. In the event that more than 2 people are nominated a vote will be taken at the meeting by secret ballot. The role of church steward is a significant one in the life of the church family. As a steward you will be a member of the Church Council and the Pastoral Committee and you will be asked to represent the stewards' team on other committees. You will be instrumental in making arrangements for our Sunday services, providing day-to-day leadership and encouragement to the congregation and making sure we all know what is going on. The appointment is for 4 years and although it will be a busy time working at the heart of the church family it is a post which brings with it wonderful opportunities and rewards. If you think God is calling you to be a steward, act now! Speak to Colin Barrett or any of the present stewards' team and find out what it is all about. Or if you think you know someone who could be a steward, act now! Speak to them and encourage them to allow their name to be put forward. As the Church Family please hold this process in your prayers that together we may seek God's guiding hand. It is good when the stewards' team has a colourful mixture of gifts and graces and is representative of the many interests we have in our church. Please also remember the commitment of the church to encourage young people to take on leadership roles. There is no age limit – upper or lower – for this post.

Secretary of the Church Council

At the last Church Council Meeting Lesley Gray tendered her resignation as secretary having completed quite a bit more than her 6-year term. We thank Lesley for the quiet skill and dedication she has brought to this role. Now we need to appoint a new secretary and we invite you to put names forward (to Lesley or Colin) of those who are able and willing to take on this important role. The position is open to any church member. Names will be brought to the next Church Council on 14th March and, if there is more than one name, a vote will be taken. Please bear in mind the commitment of the church to encourage young people to take on leadership roles.

Colin Barrett

Church council Meeting 14th December

This was an emergency Church Council primarily to consider the situation concerning our lay workers and our homeless visitors. Rev Colin Barrett opened the discussion by referring to a pastoral letter, which had previously been circulated to church members concerning the situation. He stated that the meeting would proceed on the basis that all present would know what was in the letter. Our lay workers find the “homeless” who congregate and sometimes block the doorway to our premises intimidating and obstructive. Kevin Orange spoke on behalf of the lay workers outlining the difficulties they face including drunken and antisocial behaviour. Clive Teale, Staff Supervision and Support Officer, has received complaints from staff but feels powerless to act. We have a duty of care and responsibility to our staff. If there was an incident then we could be sued. At present it is impossible for the staff not to be on their own at times. If staff arrive and find drunken bodies across the doorway, then they cannot get in to do their work and we are paying them to do nothing. Clive stated that he does voluntary work at Hope Café where no one is alone and risk, by implication, is accepted. Christine Stopard (line manager for Debbie) is concerned that the cleaner arrives as early as 6.45 am, in the dark, and often the door is obstructed by drunken bodies. She expressed concern too for Linda. We all want, but do not know, what is best for her.

Helena Badoo (visitor) is concerned for the safety of staff. There should be a proper strategy and training. Staff should not be on their own. Helena spoke of a colleague, Ruth Shelton of Emmanuel House, who would come and speak to Church Council. Our policy of directing our visitors to the Hope Café is not the complete answer as Hope Café is not open on Friday or Sunday. Alison Rowe (visitor) is keen for a creative solution to be found. This problem affects many churches and a clear policy is needed for Beeston. Sally Ramsey, Diane Bown and Barrie Juffs (council members) highlighted the value of keeping the premises secure.

Rev Colin Barrett stated the need to explore training on a Beeston -wide basis with a written policy and security. We need to find a way forward. No decision can be taken at this Church Council. It must come to the next Council meeting on 11 January 2012. Perhaps we need to form a working group, which could draw on the expertise of others to look at the problem to which there is no easy answer. It is important we make the right decisions. Ian Wragg spoke in favour of a working group, which would have enough time to deal adequately with the problem.

Jim Murfin (visitor) said that in closing the meeting now, we were still leaving our staff at risk. It is our responsibility that they should not be put at risk. Christine Stopard suggested that we have a rota of volunteers for the next few weeks so that staff are not on their own. She would be willing to take names of volunteers and draw up a rota. She also thinks that the Mission and Service Team should monitor the subject and it should appear regularly on their agenda.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm with the Grace.

Tuesday 7th February 2012 7.30 to 9.00pm

St Barnabas Cathedral – mcguiness Room

Emmanuel house serving homeless people in Nottingham
today and tomorrow

with Ruth Shelton Executive director, Emmanuel House

Refreshments - cake

St Barnabas Justice and Peace Group

All welcome – bring your friends!

Tuesday 21st February 2012 7 – 9.30pm

St Barnabas Cathedral Hall

Pancakes for cafod

Celebrating fifty years of working for justice and peace
through development.

with Neil Thorns, CAFOD’s Head of Advocacy

Home made Pancakes

Fair Trade wine / fruit juice

Fair Trade stall Cafod stall

St Barnabas Justice and Peace Group

All welcome – bring your friends!